

Indiana Professional Standards Board
Special Topics Bulletin
Limited Licenses
October 2004

Indiana is in the unique situation that we have surpluses of teachers in certain areas, especially elementary education, social studies, and physical education. Indiana has balanced supply and demand in most other areas with the exception of special education. A continuing concern is how to get licensed teachers into the schools, especially in urban and rural areas, that need them.

To fill these needs, a superintendent may request a limited license. A limited license may be issued to a person who has a bachelor's degree and a minimum of 15 hours in the content area. The license is valid for one year and may be renewed upon completion of six semester hours of course work toward the full license.

The following tables show the increase in the number of limited licenses issued each year, although the numbers are not broken down by original licenses and renewal of existing limited licenses. Even with these increases, less than three percent of the teachers in Indiana are teaching on limited licenses.

Special education continues to be the area in which the most limited licenses are requested and issued. For over 10 years, almost 80 percent of all limited licenses have been in special education. There is no easy solution to increasing the number of teachers who work with the most challenging students in the schools in the area that has the most teacher turnover.

Limited Licenses Issued

Year	Special Education	All other areas	Total
1997-98	991	158	1149
1998-99	1080	176	1256
1999-00	1205	166	1371
2000-01	1461	193	1654
2001-02	1629	310	1939
2002-03	1469	436	1905
2003-04	1551	416	1967

Although there was a small decrease in the total number of limited licenses in 2002-03, the number increased again in 2003-04. Of special significance is the dramatic decrease in the number of special education licenses from 2001-02 to 2002-03 with the number again increasing in 2003-04 over the pervious year. Even with these variations, special

education areas are still by far and away the areas with the most limited licenses. We continue to monitor trends in the supply and demand of special education teachers.

Limited Licenses Issued: Top Five Areas by Year

Special Education Area	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Seriously emotionally handicapped	434	534	591	518	530
Mild disabilities	251	365	406	390	452
Learning disabilities	183	194	273	245	202
Severe disabilities	156	169	193	185	226
Mildly mentally handicapped	125	138	166	131	141

Mathematics, Spanish, general elementary, English, and biology were the top areas other than special education in which limited licenses were issued. We are monitoring yearly changes in the number of limited licenses in all content areas not only for the total issued in each, but also for the percentage of change from the previous year.

Content Area	Limited licenses 2001-02	Limited licenses 2002-03	Limited licenses 2003-04
Biology	24	43	36
Chemistry	27	33	20
Earth Space Science	19	18	22
Physical Science	10	20	14
Physics	16	21	20
Mathematics	81	96	103
English	46	51	33
English as a Second Language	13	18	10
Spanish	54	67	69
French	7	15	12
Business Education	13	28	38
Elementary*	39	53	62

Beginning July 1, 2004, the limited license was replaced by the emergency permit. The emergency permit is requested by the superintendent when a licensed, qualified, teacher is not available. The emergency permit may be renewed twice for a total validity of three years.

*A limited license in elementary education is generally issued to a person who is teaching another area (i.e. Spanish) in an elementary school setting.